

This is a mildly challenging loop, crossing and running parallel to the Raquette and Grass Rivers.

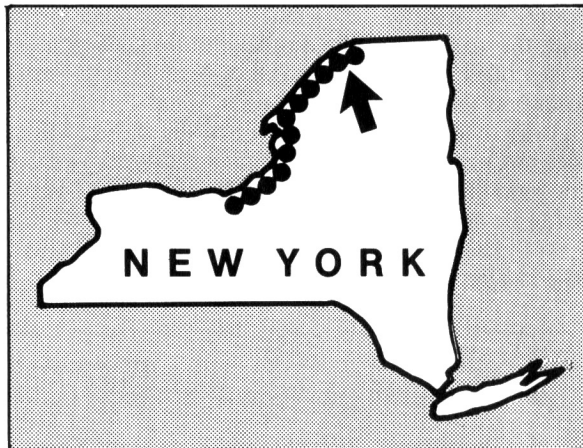
The Wilson Hill State Wildlife Management Area provides sanctuary for a variety of waterfowl in a shallow bay behind Wilson Hill Island. An elevated viewing platform can be reached by a nature trail from the island end of the causeway.

This loop crosses the Raquette River using an old steel bridge now closed to motorists, but open to pedestrians and bicyclists. You should walk your bike over the bridge's coarse, steel-grate surface. Just upstream from the bridge the river drops over a small dam. This site makes a pleasant lunch stop.

Nation, Dishaw, and aptly named Marsh Roads pass through marshes, home to numerous songbirds. County Roads 39 and 69 have some through traffic, but the other roads on this loop have low traffic volumes.

You'll encounter several rolling hills and short, steep grades near Louisville on County Road 69 as you descend to and climb away from the Grass River. The railroad overpass on Tiernon Ridge Road is also surfaced with steel grating and requires caution.

A guidebook and map of The Seaway Trail Bicycle Route—Eastern Segment contains additional information about points of interest along the Wilson Hill loop. The map, guidebook, and five other loop brochures, are all available through the same sources that distribute this brochure.



LOCATION OF THIS LOOP ON THE SEAWAY TRAIL BICYCLE ROUTE

## ABOUT THIS LOOP

The Seaway Trail Bicycle Route—Eastern Segment loop brochures are developed by the St. Lawrence-Eastern Ontario Commission as an aid to bicyclists. Those involved with the development and publication of these brochures in no way warrant the safety of the roads recommended to bicyclists for shared bicycle/motor vehicle use. The roads are suggested only as routes which are suitable for bicycling based on available data and prior evaluation by experienced bicyclists.

The routes shown on these brochures follow designated state, county, and local roads, and are used by drivers of automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles and farm machinery as well as bicycles. These roads have no special provisions for bicyclists, though most of the state highways do have paved shoulders suitable for bicycle riding.

Bicyclists using these brochures and related materials assume the responsibilities and risks for their own safety when cycling on these loop routes or other roads.

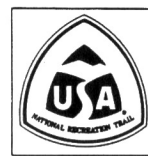
These recommended loops are designed for the average adult bicyclist, defined as being 16 years or older, having a drivers license, or having received drivers training and having several years of bicycling experience.

## BICYCLES ARE VEHICLES

The New York State code mandates that "Every person riding a bicycle upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle..."

The code requires bicycles to be ridden near the right-hand curb or roadway edge, or on a usable right-hand shoulder, to prevent "undue interference" with traffic flow, except when turning left or when conditions make this position unsafe. This means that bicycles on a roadway must ride single file when being overtaken by another vehicle.

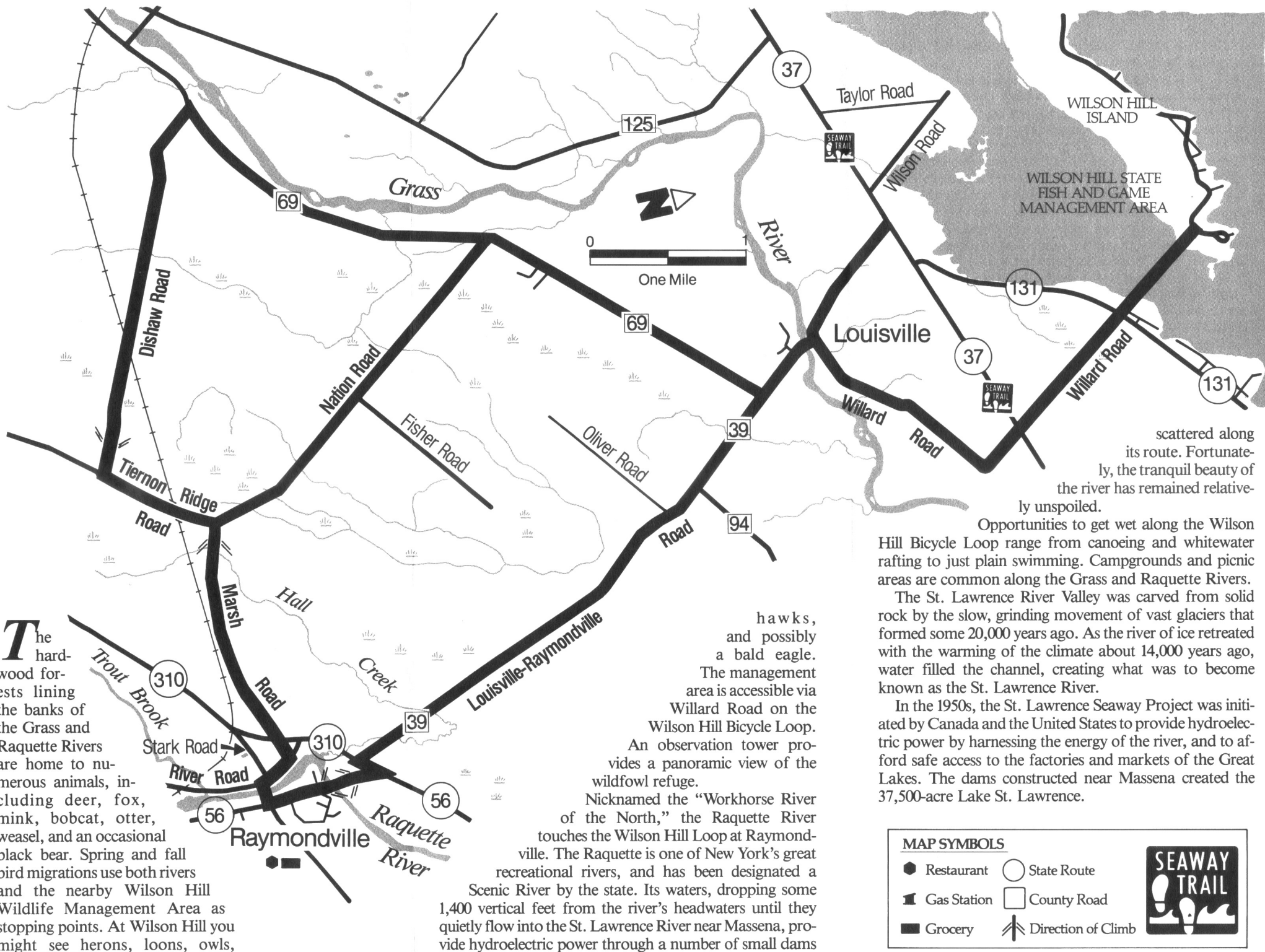
These definitions and laws are of great benefit to you as a bicyclist, giving you the rights, responsibilities, and a legally-defined status in the motor vehicle/bicycle traffic mix.



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# THE SEAWAY TRAIL WILSON HILL BICYCLE LOOP





The hardwood forests lining the banks of the Grass and Raquette Rivers are home to numerous animals, including deer, fox, mink, bobcat, otter, weasel, and an occasional black bear. Spring and fall bird migrations use both rivers and the nearby Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area as stopping points. At Wilson Hill you might see herons, loons, owls,

hawks, and possibly a bald eagle. The management area is accessible via Willard Road on the Wilson Hill Bicycle Loop. An observation tower provides a panoramic view of the wildfowl refuge. Nicknamed the "Workhorse River of the North," the Raquette River touches the Wilson Hill Loop at Raymondville. The Raquette is one of New York's great recreational rivers, and has been designated a Scenic River by the state. Its waters, dropping some 1,400 vertical feet from the river's headwaters until they quietly flow into the St. Lawrence River near Massena, provide hydroelectric power through a number of small dams

scattered along its route. Fortunately, the tranquil beauty of the river has remained relatively unspoiled.

Opportunities to get wet along the Wilson Hill Bicycle Loop range from canoeing and whitewater rafting to just plain swimming. Campgrounds and picnic areas are common along the Grass and Raquette Rivers.

The St. Lawrence River Valley was carved from solid rock by the slow, grinding movement of vast glaciers that formed some 20,000 years ago. As the river of ice retreated with the warming of the climate about 14,000 years ago, water filled the channel, creating what was to become known as the St. Lawrence River.

In the 1950s, the St. Lawrence Seaway Project was initiated by Canada and the United States to provide hydroelectric power by harnessing the energy of the river, and to afford safe access to the factories and markets of the Great Lakes. The dams constructed near Massena created the 37,500-acre Lake St. Lawrence.

**MAP SYMBOLS**

Restaurant	State Route
Gas Station	County Road
Grocery	Direction of Climb

